

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
MCE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 DODE-00
EB-08 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00
COME-00 /072 W

-----109444 301421Z /53

O 301335Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7115

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2134

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PORS, GY, US
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TEAR GAS GRENADES

REF: A. STATE 165332, B. STATE 11942, C. STATE 138939,
D. GEORGETTOWN 1576

1. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL SITUATION IS THAT THE
PROBABILITY OF VIOLENCE CENTERING AROUND THE JULY 10 REFERENDUM
IS NOW SOMEWHAT LESS THAN IT WAS IN MID-MAY (REF D).
POWER AND WATER SUPPLIES, ALTHOUGH EXTREMELY TENUOUS, ARE
TOLERABLE; THE GOVERNMENT IN THIS IMMEDIATE PRE-REFERENDUM
PERIOD HAS MANAGED TO SUPPLY URBAN CENTERS AT LEAST WITH MOST
OF THOSE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AND FOODSTUFFS WHICH WERE
LACKING SEVERAL WEEKS AGO; THE OPPOSITION HAS BEGUN TO
FRAGMENT UNDER PRESSURE; AND THE ATTITUDE OF BOTH OPPOSITION AND
THAT PART OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC OPPOSED TO THE REFERENDUM MAY
BE CHARACTERIZED AS DISSPIRITED AND/OR APATHETIC. WHILE A
POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER HAS PREDICTED ON BOTH
RADIO AND IN TMIAPRESS THAT THE GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS'
UNION (GAWU-THE LABOR ARM OF THE MOSCOW-LINING OPPOSITION
PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY) WILL STRIKE ON OR ABOUT JULY 4,
IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A STRIKE BY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WHO ARE
LARGELY REMOTE FROM THE CAPITAL WILL HAVE SERIOUS IMMEDIATE
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ECONOMIC EFFECTS (THE SUGAR CROP IS LARGELY IN) OR LEAD TO
SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE. RULING PEOPLES' NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC)
LEADERS HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY PROSLETYZING THE POLICE FORCE COLLECTIVELY
AND INDIVIDUALLY TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY THE PNC AND THE REFEREDUM
AS A DUTY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM (THUS BEGINNING THE
EROSION OF THE TRADITION OF AN APOLITICAL POLICE NOTED IN
REF D). RESPONSIBLE SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED TO EMBOFFS THAT THE

GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE (GDF) IS FULLY PREPARED TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN ANY PUBLIC CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE POLICE MIGHT SEEM UNABLE TO HANDLE, BUT THESE SOURCES DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE GDF ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED.

2. THE EMBASSY'S POSITION REGARDING THE SALE OF TEAR GAS TO GUYANA REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM THAT STATED IN REFERENCE D. THE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS APPEAR TO REMAIN STILL UNANSWERED: HAVE AMERICAN EXPORTS OF TEAR GAS BEEN APPROVED TO GUYANA PREVIOUSLY AND, IF SO, WHEN AND IN WHAT QUANTITIES? IF THERE IS NO HISTORY OF SALES OF AMERICAN TEAR GAS TO GUYANA, HAS AMBASSADOR MANN SAID WHY GUYANA IS NOW TURNING TO THE US AND WHY IT IS NOT PURCHASING FROM ITS USUAL SUPPLIER? TO REITERATE, EMBASSY WOULD HAVN NO GREAO P??)3. 285# :9,58,78,& -, 3/8 58,& :9..34:8-) 0-5534,, BUT WOULD HESITATE TO INITIATE A NEW ONE AT THIS TIME PARTICULARLY FTR UNUSALLY LARGE AMOURZS. APPROVAL OF ONE-THIRD OF THE AMOUNT REQUESTED WOULD SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE TO RECOMMEND IT UNLESS THAT FIGURE SHOULD CONFORM APPROXIMATELY WITH PRIOR US SALES TO GUYANA. WHATEVER BENEFITS MIGHT BE GAINED BY APPROVING PARTIAL SALE SEEM LIKELY TO BE OFFSET BY GUYANESE REALIZATION THAT US HAS MADE ITS OWN DECISION REGARDING GUYANESE NEEDS AND THAT US OBVIOUSLY INTENDS TO HOLD REMAINDER OF CONTRACT HOSTAGE UNTIL UTILIZATION OF FIRST CONSIGNMENT IS DEMONSTRATED TO MEET US NORMS.

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3. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY GUYANESE OFFICIALS REGARDING SALE OF TEAR GAS. EMBASSY SUSPECTS URGENCY OF AMBASSADOR MANN'S PRESENTATION DUE TO HIGH LEVEL ENQUIRIES FROM GEORGETOWN AS TO WHY HE HAS NOT FOLLOWENK UP WITH USG ON A LONG OUTSTANDING REQUEST.
BURKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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